

She was a mentor to so many—most notably her two loving daughters, Lauren and Courtney. I stand today to offer my sincerest condolences to her husband, Bill; her daughter, Lauren and her husband Ryan; her daughter Courtney and her husband Daniel; as well as her beloved grandson, Jackson—the inspiration for her two children's books published shortly before her passing. Mere words cannot express the sorrow we all feel at the loss of such an extraordinary woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 14, 2007, I attended an event in my district announcing a major economic development project and was absent for 3 votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 342, "yea" on rollcall 343, and "yea" on rollcall 344.

HONORING SONIA GUTIERREZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2007, the Latino and immigrant communities of the Greater Washington Region will gather to celebrate with Ms. Sonia Gutierrez her 35 years of selfless dedication to the larger community and to the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico. She received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Adult Education specializing in Supervision and Administration of Adult Education Programs.

Ms. Gutierrez, is the CEO & Founder of the Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School, and has spent 35 years as a principal, counselor, advocate, and organizer to more than 60,000 adult immigrant students.

Ms. Gutierrez began her career in the District of Columbia Public Schools in May 1972 as a counselor in the Program for English Instruction to Latin Americans (PEILA). There she began her mission: to provide holistic education to adult immigrants with little formal education in their native countries, enabling them to succeed by addressing their social and academic needs.

In October 1972, Ms. Gutierrez became the Director of PEILA and transformed the small, under-funded English as a Second Language (ESL) program into a comprehensive adult education program. In 1974, the Office of Right to Read of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated it as one of the best literacy programs in the Nation. As PEILA outgrew its facility, Ms. Gutierrez began a 2-year effort to secure a school building for the program. In 1978 she was successful in relocating the program to the old Gordon Junior High School in Georgetown; PEILA then merged with the old Americanization School with an initial enrollment of 800.

Sonia Gutierrez has made a tremendous impact on the Washington, DC region and on the field of adult education. She has had a direct impact on the lives of over 60,000 people in the last 35 years. Many thousands more have benefited as the adult education model she developed has proliferated across the globe. The students served by the Carlos Rosario International School have been given the chance to achieve their dreams because of her belief in them and their potential, and her passionate leadership of the school.

Ms. Gutierrez has triumphed over great adversity in leading the school to be the thriving model it is today. Today, it is arguably the most recognized school in the District of Columbia Public School System. Under her leadership it was recognized as a national model for adult education by the United States Department of Education. She has helped other schools replicate the model across the Nation as well as in Korea and Germany. When many adult schools were closed by the District of Columbia in 1996, she pushed on, ignored suggestions to retire, and reestablished the Carlos Rosario International School.

Sonia Gutierrez is a civil rights activist, a leader and visionary. She is a fierce defender and advocate for urban school systems and the families who attend them. Sonia has been a model of leadership. Her commitment to fairness, excellence, and compassion has inspired many to make a difference in this world.

It is for this perseverance, passion, visionary leadership, and the immeasurable impact on the lives touched by her work that we recognize Ms. Sonia Gutierrez' 35 years of service to the community.

BREAST CANCER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, as we return from Mother's Day weekend, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for H.R.1157, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

This weekend we honored our mothers and grandmothers and the immense contributions they have made in our lives. As we celebrate these women, we should also take the opportunity to renew our focus and efforts on an issue that affects far too many women in the United States: breast cancer.

There are more than three million women currently living with breast cancer, and each year tens of thousands of women die from the disease. While we have made important progress in treatments and research, we still do not know what causes breast cancer or how to prevent it. And the alarming nature of these uncertainties is compounded by the fact breast cancer rates are on the rise. A woman in the United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing invasive breast cancer in her lifetime—this risk was only 1 in 11 in 1975.

While it is generally believed the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, scientific evidence about the extent of its role is minimal. Studies have ex-

plored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence, and they cannot be translated into real ways in which women can better protect themselves.

The Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act will create a competitive, peer-reviewed research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors, and there are many understudied factors suspected to play a role that could be valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer. H.R. 1157 will start a collaborative, comprehensive and national strategy to study these issues.

I proudly stand in support of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act. I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this important, bipartisan investment in breast cancer research.

CONGRATULATING BROWARD COUNTY ANNUAL SENIOR HALL OF FAME HONOREES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have contributed countless hours to helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are Dr. Kamala Anadam, Lucille D'Orso, Ron English, Elizabeth "Betty" Mate, Evelyn Miller, Pearl Monchek, Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy, Sister Germana Sala, Charles Singer, Eleanor Sobel, and Willie Mae Williams.

Dr. Kamala Anadam of Weston, a former professor of Child Development in India, has been participating in the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Project since 1998. She personally coordinated the Project in her congregation, overseeing 22 volunteers and visiting frail homebound elderly in their homes. Dr. Anadam is a Member of the Fort Lauderdale Branch of America Association of University Women, a member of the Broward County Chapter of the United Nations of U.S.A., and a Member of the Advisory Committee of Senior Volunteer Services, Inc.

Lucille D'Orso of Lauderdale Lakes, a retired hairdresser, has been volunteering for the Foster Grandparents Program for over 32 years and has spent a majority of her time at several Broward County elementary schools, including Pinewood Elementary in North Lauderdale for 10 years, Northside Elementary in Fort Lauderdale for 15 years, Oriole Elementary in Lauderdale Lakes, and Larkdale Elementary in Fort Lauderdale.

Ron English of Fort Lauderdale has a passion for caring for the marginalized and less fortunate members of the community, leading to the creation of ground-breaking institutions such as AmFar (American Foundation for AIDS Research), the Sunshine Cathedral Foundation, and SunServe, the world's first

senior center designed to meet the needs of gay and lesbian frail seniors and their caregivers.

Elizabeth "Betty" Mate of Fort Lauderdale has been associated with the Alzheimer's Family Center since 1997 and has served on the agency's Board of Directors. In 2007, she became Chairman of the Alzheimer's Family Center's Black Tie Gala Committee, and she recently completed a training program to volunteer for Project Lifesaver.

Evelyn Miller of Tamarac is Broward President of the National Alliance for Mental Illness. She also serves on the Board of the Florida Alliance for Mental Illness, and through her legislative advocacy and facilitation of model programs, has established the local Mental Health Court, the Court Project, the Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams, the Crisis Intervention team Model within local law enforcement, and the Peer-to-Peer and Family-to-Family Programs.

Pearl Monchek of Hollywood is a lifetime member of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. She also discovered the Southeast Focal Point Senior Center more than 10 years ago and often fills in for the Site Manager for Broward Meals on Wheels. During the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma, Pearl came to the aid of residents of the apartment complex adjacent to the Senior Center, purchasing and delivering food and supplies to needy individuals.

Commissioner Allegra Webb Murphy of Oakland Park has served on the City of Oakland Park's Beautification Advisory Board, Charter Review Board, and Oakland Park Main Street Inc., in the offices of Vice President and Executive Board Secretary, and has contributed time as President of the Harris Chapel United Methodist Women's Group. Allegra actively participates with the Lakeside Homeowners Association, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the Oakland Park Kiwanis Club, and she holds the distinction of being the first African American Mayor of the City of Oakland Park.

Sister Germana Sala of Davie spent 15 years teaching mentally disabled children in North Miami and since then, has spent a majority of her time at Hope Outreach, providing Social Services to the low-income, poor, and multicultural residents in and around the Davie area. Germana also visits the homebound, disabled, and frail elderly at home, nursing facilities, and hospitals.

Charles Singer of Pompano Beach helped pursue the creation of Broward Homebound Program, Inc., an affordable in-home program to prevent the need for premature institutionalization. Charles has also served as President of the Central Bureau for Jewish Aged Association, Founder of the National Association of Jewish Homes for the Aged, Treasurer of the Men's Golf Association of Palm Aire and the B'nai B'rith Housing in Deerfield, and Vice President of the Auxiliary of the Memory Disorder Center.

Eleanor Sobel of Hollywood was elected to the Broward School Board in 2006 and is a former Florida State Representative. Eleanor served as Chair for Women in Power in the 1980s and as President of the Hollywood Chapter for the National Council for Jewish Women, and was the City Commissioner in Hollywood for 6 years in the 1990s. As a State Representative, Eleanor brought the concerns

of citizens in Hollywood and Pembroke Pines before the state legislature and was influential in enacting reforms on many issues of importance.

Willie Mae Williams of Lauderdale Lakes served as the Northwest Federated Woman's Club of Broward County for more than 25 years. As Second Vice President, Willie Mae diligently chairs the Food and Social Committee, and has raised funds for the organization by coordinating and implementing a weekly fish fry.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2007

Daniel Lerma, Robert F. Kennedy Charter High School; Jennifer Roberts, Mountainair High School; Jennifer Johnston, Del Norte High School; James H. Caughren, Sandia Preparatory School; Arthur Chacon, Manzano High School; Siobhan Degnan, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Abigail Martinez, South Valley Academy; Molly Nelson, Albuquerque Academy; Ashley Marie Maturino, Evangel Christian Academy; Ruby Trujillo, Rio Grande High School; Nicholas A. Maestas, Highland High School; David Aaron Parks, Cibola High School; Kelsey Byrne, Moriarty High School; Mathew Garcia, West Mesa High School; Eric Laver, Sandia High School; and Austin Baker, Temple Baptist Academy.

Angelica Aguilar, Los Puentes Charter School; Amanda Fernandez May, St. Pius X High School; Ashley Hope Darnell, Bernalillo High School; Sara Beth Dunham, Victory Christian School; Geri Lucia Lia, Menaul School; Corina Franco, New Futures School; Kelly Walker, Bosque School; Kelly D. Clingenpeel, Sierra Alternative High School; Audrey Wofford, Hope Christian School; Desiree J. Sandoval, Cesar Chavez Community School; Katie Gilliam, La Cueva High School; James C. Bohnhoff, El Dorado High School; Elizabeth McConaghy, Los Lunas High School; Charles Andres Padilla, East Mountain High School; Stacy Daniels, Valley High School; and Lindsay Riblett, Moriarty High School.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TOM DAVIS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John H. La Raia for over 37 years of dedicated military and Federal service.

Following his graduation from the University of Rochester in 1968, John joined the Air Force's Strategic Air Command in Southeast Asia. During his 5 years at this post, John served courageously and valiantly, flying in 155 missions. After completing his active duty, John continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves for an additional 21 years as a logistics plans officer.

Compelled to further serve his government and his Nation, John then began a career in the federal service at the Bureau of Naval Personnel. After his initial training period, he quickly rose through the ranks of the Bureau, serving in a variety of assignments dealing with financial management, systems analysis and both civilian and military personnel.

In 1999, he joined the Senior Executive Service as an assistant for administration to the Under Secretary of the Navy. Through this role John managed duties concerning the Navy's budget, human resources, manpower, facilities and services, IT services and various other functions for the secretary.

During his distinguished career he was awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal three times. Additionally, he received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. Finally, last year he was recognized by President Bush and awarded the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Service.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. John H. La Raia for his distinguished career and his service to our Nation. He exemplifies everything our great Nation could hope for in a public servant. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. La Raia and in wishing him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JEREMY R. GREENE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness and deep respect that I wish to commend Army Corporal Jeremy R. Greene for his bravery and his willingness to fight for his country. Corporal Greene was assigned to A Company 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. In an unfortunate accident, Corporal Greene lost his life on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Forward Operating Base Tillman in Afghanistan. His sacrifice for his country will forever be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, Jeremy graduated in 2001 from Shawnee High School in